

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Simani fails to disclose or render obvious the features recited in independent claims 1, 8, 17 and 18. Claims 2-7 and 9-16, which depend from the independent claims are likewise distinguished over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

David J. Cho
Registration No. 48,078

JAO:DJC/al

Attachments: Petition for Extension of Time
Letter to the Official Draftsperson

Date: February 3, 2004

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